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**Diamonds.** By Sir William Crookes, LL.D., D. Sc. xvi and 146 pp., and 24 illustrations. Harper & Brothers, New York and London, 1909. 2s. 6d.

Probably no one could write better on this subject than the great chemist whose name is on the title-page, not even Mr. Gardner Williams, who is credited by the author with knowing "more about diamonds than any man living." Besides most carefully studying the diamond in so favorable a place as South Africa, where he made two visits, Sir William has himself produced diamonds artificially from molten iron. Manufactured diamonds, however, are microscopic, the largest made being less than a millimetre across. Not till pressure and temperature can be obtained and maintained sufficiently high to liquefy and solidify carbon in considerable quantity can a diamond of some size be expected from the furnace.

In this little book Sir William, besides describing the South African mines, discusses the possible method of the formation by natural process of the diamond, as well as the method of artificial manufacture. The Canyon Diablo (Arizona) meteorite diamonds are likewise described and illustrated. Though the volume is small, it contains much more real information on the subject discussed than many a larger volume does; and it is presented clearly.

Sir William says: "I have done my best to explain the fiery origin of the Diamond, and to describe the glowing, molten, subterranean furnaces where they first begin mysteriously to take shape. I have shown that a diamond is the outcome of a series of Titanic earth convulsions, and that these precious gems undergo cycles of fiery, strange, and potent vicissitudes before they can blaze on a ring or a tiara."

**Terry's Mexico.** Handbook for Travellers. By T. Philip Terry. ccxi and 595 pp., two maps and 25 plans. City of Mexico, Sonora News Co.; Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1909. \$2.50.

Made on the general model of Baedeker, this is an admirable guide-book; the best in the field on the subject. It contains very full information on hotels, railways, tips, customs duties, shops, health, photography, etc., as well as good descriptions of towns, churches, boundaries, literature and all the other points expected in a guide-book but not always found there. In the extensive historical sketch Mr. Terry follows the lead of our romantic Prescott, speaking of Montezuma as "King" and further on of another chief as "Emperor." The style is agreeable and no traveller can afford to go to Mexico without this book, while it will be found an important reference volume for any library.

**India of To-day.** By Syed Sirdar Ali Khan. v. and 132 pp. Small 4to. Bombay Times Press, 1908.

The author says "the situation in India to-day is growing steadily worse and worse." Unrest and violence dominate the land, with no prospect of a near solution of the problem. In the judgment of some the difficulty has arisen through a too "soft-hearted" policy, and the remedy lies largely in a firmer rule. The author speaks in the highest praise of Lord Morley and declares he is the only member of the Government "capable of guiding the destinies of India through the present crisis." He believes that, widespread though the seditious spirit is, "it is possible once more to gather into the fold of loyalty all except the irreconcil-